

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the Title as published in the International Application in its entirety and replace with the following Title:

### **METHOD FOR THE RECOGNITION AND TRACKING OF OBJECTS**

Please add the following header and paragraph after the title on page 1 of the specification.

### **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/012903, filed November 18, 2003 and published in German as WO 2004/055548 A1 on July 1, 2004, which claims the benefit of German application number 102 58 794.9, filed December 16, 2002. The disclosures of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the Paragraph beginning on Page 36, Line 10 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

If no reference elements are found, for example because at least two different first and last contour elements of the contours are hidden, the correction shift vector is set to the value zero, otherwise it results as a difference between the position coordinates of the reference element of the current object contour and the position coordinates of the corresponding reference element of the predicted contour.

Furthermore, the value zero is associated with the correction shift vector if the magnitude of the correction shift is greater than a value in dependence on the age of the object, given by the number of cycles during which the object already exists or if the contour elements - measured by the average mean square spacing from the reference element - are very strongly scattered.